Aspects of **Cultural Duality** in the Arab world

Popular VS. Governmental culture الازدواجية الثقافية في العالم العربي

Language- Occasions- Names of places- Arts- Religion etc.

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The situation has never been like this before the twentieth century. Is it just because the unpopular governments or dictatorships? This is true to a certain extent. Other factors include traditional conservative societies that have strong moral values resist change, technologizing and commercialism. Some Arab governments of small country and/or limited resources use local popular culture, but extracted from their regional environment to strengthen their separate entities.

Subject	Governmental	Popular	Notes
Language	Written Arabic: used in all types of writing and taught in schools.	Spoken Arabic: used in all types of speaking but ignored by the educational system.	Language duality started in the nineteenth century.
Names of streets and areas	Official names (mostly new) used in maps, signs and written documents. Normally, represent names of leaders or political anniversaries.	Popular names (mostly old) used by people in speaking in all occasions.	Names of new places could be used by people
Arts- Songs, theatre	Elitist artists influenced by foreign trends. Political songs which praise the rulers. Official theatre that presents translated works and often uses written language and depends on symbolism.	Handicraft workers. Folk songs spread over limited areas and are not often on TV or radio. Comedy works- local authors that use spoken language and depend on realism.	Pop songs here are categorized as short-living, mass commercial production.
Religion	The ideal version of religion that made compatible with science and most of its clergy work for the state and has influence over religious institutions.	The practiced religion that's full of myths, superstitions and local rituals. Its clergy have great influence over the people.	
Occasions	National days: represent political events achieved by the ruling group.	Old religious and ethnic occasions.	
Literature	Literature produced by elitist intellectuals that is circulated written in the books and taught in schools.	Popular poetry and tales that are found in local and private occasions and circulated orally.	
Law	Urban civil law influenced by the western constitutions.	Tribal, ethnic, and local traditions.	
Power and circulation	Depends on and Controls the educational system, mass media and cultural organizations.	Develops and spreads out away from state organizations and official channels.	
Age and duration	Relatively short-living.	Long living.	